

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY L/UNA;RFSTOWE;JU

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IO/UNESCO - RDFORSTER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, UNESCO (KOWNACKI, S.)

SUBJECT: UNESCO PERSONNEL ACTION RE S. KOWNACKI

1. DEPT HAS RECEIVED THROUGH SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE A COMPLAINT BY FORMER UNESCO FIELD STAFF MEMBER S. KOWNACKI, AN AMERICAN CITIZEN WHO SERVED ON A TWO-YEAR APPOINTMENT WITH THE UNESCO MISSION IN BARQUISIMETO, VENEZUELA, PROJECT VEN/71/530. MR. KOWNACKI PROTESTS THAT HIS RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH WAS VIOLATED BY THE UNDP RESIDENT REP EBOLI IN CARACAS AND BY FORMER UNESCO PERSONNEL DIRECTOR ROGER BARNES, WHO CRITICIZED MR. KOWNACKI FOR ALLEGEDLY WRITING A LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF TIME MAGAZINE CRITICIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF A HIGH POLITICAL FIGURE.

2. IN A MEMO OF 14 NOVEMBER 1973 MR. BARNES RECALLED TO MR. KOWNACKI STAFF REGULATION 1.4 AND SUGGESTED THAT HE REFRAIN IN THE FUTURE FROM EXPRESSING PREJUDICES LIKELY TO

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DAMAGE THE REPUTATION OF UNESCO. MR. KOWNACKI STATES THAT

HE IN TURN FOLLOWED THE STAFF COMPLAINT PROCEDURES AND REFERRED TO MATTER TO THE DG, WHO SUPPORTED MR. BARNES THROUGH A LETTER OF 8 MARCH 1974 SENT BY LUIS G. MARQUES, ACTING PERSONNEL DIRECTOR.

3. ACTION REQUESTED:PERMDEL IS REQUESTED TO VERIFY THAT MR. KOWNACKI HAD A REASONABLE HEARING OF HIS COMPLAINT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESTABLISHED GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES, AND TO GIVE DEPT YOUR ASSESSMENT OF BASIC FAIRNESS OF THOSE PROCEDURES THEMSELVES. WE WOULD APPRECIATE AN ANSWER SOONEST IN ORDER TO REPLY TO CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY. INGERSOLL

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